

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-33 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 20, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by article *Uses and consequences of electronic markets; an empirical investigation in the aircraft parts industry* to Choudhury ("Choudhury").

Claims 1-19 and 33 are allowed

Claims 22, 23, 27, and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The indication, in the Office Action, that the Examiner has no objections to the drawings filed on November 14, 2005, is noted with appreciation.

Claim Amendments

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 29. Claims 29, 31, and 32 have been cancelled. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 20, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Choudhury, is respectfully traversed based on the following.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 29, which is rewriting claim 29 in independent form. Because the Office Action indicated that

claim 29 was allowable over the prior art if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 20 is allowable over the prior art. Claims 21-28 and 30 depend from amended claim 20 and are, therefore, also allowable over the prior art.

Claims 31 and 32 have been cancelled, mooting the rejection thereof.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 20, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Choudhury, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

New claim 34 is a copy of claim 22 rewritten in independent form. The Office Action states that claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 34 is allowable over the prior art, as is claim 35 which depends from claim 34.

New claim 36 is a copy of claim 27 rewritten in independent form. The Office Action states that claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 34 is allowable over the prior art.

New claims 37-39 are copies of independent claims 1, 11, and 20 in which the preamble has been changed to "A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program implementing the steps of:" It is respectfully submitted that because the new claims recite the same elements as the claims from which they are derived, the new claims are allowable over the art of record, and no additional search or examination of the claims is required. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new claims 34-36 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 1 from 6 to 7, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$200.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

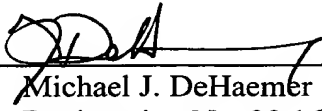
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

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Amendment dated May 23, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2006

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin LLP Deposit Account
No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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